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Let the Party Begin!

Centennial Celebration Kicks Off October 19

Let's party!

Community leaders in Broken Arrow figure we've earned the right to toot our own horn a bit as the city begins a year-long Centennial celebration Saturday, Oct. 19.

Broken Arrow was founded in October of 1902 and was incorporated as a town in Indian Territory on May 4, 1903. The next 12 months will provide many opportunities to tell our story to the more than 80,000 residents who now call Broken Arrow home -- as well as to the rest of Oklahoma and beyond.

The Oct. 19 kickoff will start with the unveiling of our Centennial statue in Centennial Park, followed by a parade along Main Street and an all-day party in Central Park -- complete with free food and soft drinks.

A Centennial Committee has been meeting monthly for the past two years, planning the celebration. All of the pieces begin falling into place on Oct. 19, but there will be activities continuing throughout the next 12 months.

It will be tough to top the opening-day plans, however. Centennial Park has been created at the southwest corner of Main and Broadway, and a base has been awaiting the arrival of a 9-foot statue created by Broken Arrow artist David Nunneley. That statue (see photo at right) will be unveiled at the official dedication of the park the morning of Oct. 19, but that will only be the start of

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Coming to Main Street -- This statue created by Broken Arrow artist J. David Nunneley will be unveiled in Centennial Park the morning of Saturday, Oct. 19, as the year-long birthday party begins. Nunneley titled his work "The Walk to Rooster Day." Following the celebration in the park will be a parade down Main and a party in Central Park.

City 'Trailblazes' United Way with \$45,500 Total

City of Broken Arrow employees answered the challenge of being named the first city government to serve as a United Way Trailblazer by contributing more than \$45,000 -- an increase of 30 percent over their 2001 campaign total!

The Tulsa Area United Way names some area companies as Trailblazers each year to "jump start" the overall campaign. Each of the Trailblazers are asked to commit to increasing contributions by 10 to 15 percent, and participating in a number of United Way events. The City's total of \$45,500 was more than \$10,000 over the 2001 contributions.

In addition, City employees took part in Trailblazer events such as the volleyball tournament and run, held their own FunDay at Central Park's Family Aquatic Center and sponsored several fundraising events. The Trailblazers wrapped up their campaigns on Sept. 10, and the area campaign began afterward.

Broken Arrow Chief of Police Carolyn Kusler is the community chair for the city. Scott Esmond served as chair for the City employees' campaign.

Almost all of the funds contributed to the Broken Arrow campaign are returned to United Way agencies in Broken Arrow. Other Trailblazers this year were Blue Bell Creameries of Broken Arrow, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Cox Communications, First Data Corporation, LIFE Senior Services, Mazzio's Corporation, Melton Truck Lines, ONEOK, Senior Star Living, St. John Health System, Stillwater National Bank, Whirlpool Corporation and KWIKSET -- a Division of Black & Decker.

Task Force Targets City Cleanups

A task force has been created to help clean up Broken Arrow -- literally.

Committed to getting trash picked up alongside city streets and in city parks, the Anti-Litter Task Force is headed by volunteer Coy Bebbber, a concerned citizen who adopted a mile of Houston as his contribution. Bebbber came to City officials with a desire to do more and is now servicing as chair of the task force.

One of the major goals is to get more involvement from businesses and organizations which serve as sponsors for the Adopt-A-Mile and Adopt-A-Park programs, as well as recruiting additional sponsors. City officials will also be getting more involved, including the Police Department in targeting litterers. One of the major "idea" contributors to the task force has been Michael Patton of The Metropolitan Trust. Those wishing to volunteer should contact Scott Esmond, Director of Parks & Recreation at 259-8380.



In addition to their financial contributions to the Tulsa Area United Way campaign, City employees also did their part on the Sept. 11 Day of Caring. Shown here are (from left) Lisa Blackford and Val Roark, along with Tavia Dooley preparing to sweep, mop and a little of everything else at one of the facilities of Broken Arrow Neighbors. Employees also helped out at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club.

Youth Tournaments Draw Praise

It didn't take long for positive feedback to make its way back to Broken Arrow following weeks of baseball and softball tournaments at city facilities.

The events have become a fixture of late July and early August in the "Oklahoma Youth Sports Capital." Broken Arrow Youth Baseball hosts three major world series tournaments, while this year the Broken Arrow Girls Softball League hosted its most prestigious tournament ever -- the 18-under ASA Gold National Championship.

Letters following that tourney included one from University of Oklahoma Coach Patty Gasso, who said, "I will continue to stand by Broken Arrow as the best run National Tournament that I have attended in the 9 years I have been at OU. You all did such a great job of representing the state of Oklahoma."

Party...

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what promises to be one of the biggest days in the 100-year history of the city.

The parade down Main Street will include professionally produced floats sponsored by local businesses and organizations and helping tell the story of Broken Arrow's history. Many area dignitaries will also be included, as will bands from Broken Arrow and Union high schools.

The party will then move to Central Park, with free food and soft drinks provided. The Creek Indian Nation will set up a small "village" in the park and will present entertainment throughout the day. A giant birthday cake will also be presented for the public's enjoyment.

One of the key ingredients to Centennial Park has been the memorial brick walk leading up to the statue. A few hundred of those \$100 bricks have already been sold, but there is room for many more and they will be available throughout the Centennial celebration.

Another Centennial item which has already received a warm welcome is the book, "Broken Arrow: The First Hundred Years." Commissioned by the Broken Arrow Historical Society, the book was written by Steven L. Stapleton, J.D., and includes detailed stories and photos on the city. Copies of the book may be ordered through the Historical Society at 258-2616 for \$30 (plus \$5 shipping and handling), or \$60 for a leather-bound version.

The Creek Nation program presented during the kickoff celebration will be the first of at least six multi-cultural events for the Centennial. The German American Society will hold its program Nov. 1, with the Russian Kaleidoscope set for Feb. 10, 2003. On March 14-16 the Irish American Society will celebrate at the Community Center and on May 5 the Hispanic groups will hold center stage. An "All-American" event is planned for Sept. 20, 2003.

Area school children will be key players throughout the Centennial. On Oct. 16, 2002, the ABC History Book of Broken Arrow will be premiered, and the Broken Arrow Treasures Chest will be available for scheduling. There will be a "Living Windows" program along Main Street on Nov. 14, 2002, and on Feb. 24-28, 2003, the BA Musical Drama presentations will be made. A musical has been written by BAPS teacher Martha Barrett. Students from Northeastern State University/BA will be producing the play.

Historical markers will be placed at several sites throughout the city, helping tell the story of Broken Arrow and its homes and businesses. Banners sponsored by community businesses, churches and organizations will be placed all over town.

A community religion program will be held Nov. 16 at Rhema, featuring a combined choir from churches throughout the city.



These three wreaths commemorating the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City and on the Pentagon were a central part of Broken Arrow's special service on Sept. 11, 2002. The program was held at Central Fire Station and included the Police and Fire Department honor guards.

Community Turns Out to Honor Victims, Heroes of Sept. 11, 2001

In a brief, but emotional service on Sept. 11, 2002, Broken Arrowans turned out to remember the tragic events that occurred on that day the year before -- and vowed to never forget the sacrifices made for freedom.

Members of the Broken Arrow Fire Department, including its newly formed Honor Guard, joined the Police Department and its Honor Guard at the Central Fire Station at Kenosha and Ash. A large crowd, including several area politicians and community leaders, attended.

A bell in front of the station sounded at the start of the remembrance service and the American flag was raised to half staff. Three wreaths were placed in a landscaped area in front of the flag, along with several other items which had been given to firefighters. The Police Department Honor Guard gave a 21-gun salute, and Firefighter James Suddath gave a stirring speech about the price of freedom and the sacrifices made by firefighters and law enforcement officers throughout the nation.

Registered Sex Offenders Listed

There are nearly 50 registered sex offenders living in Broken Arrow, and information (including photos) of all of them are available on the City's web site (www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us). That section of the web site includes a list by zip codes of all those registered, as well as individual pages with names, addresses, conviction information and photos.

Police Department Holds 'Night Out' Event Oct. 31

One of the more popular events in downtown Broken Arrow should be even more popular this year as the Police Department brings its annual "Night Out" program to the heart of the community on Oct. 31.

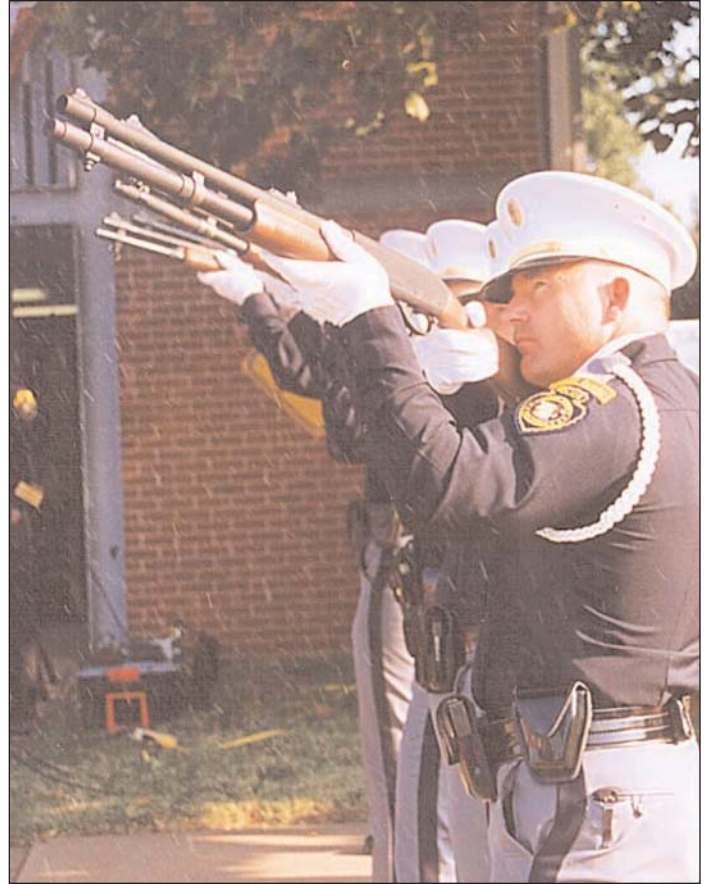
The Main Street Merchants will be holding their "Fun Night" that evening, with games, candy and other goodies and entertainment available for those wishing an alternative (or addition to) "trick-or-treating."

Crime Prevention Specialist Lisa Ford has announced that the Neighborhood Night Out program which was held last year in the Community Center will be moved to the gym at First United Methodist Church. Representatives of the police and fire departments will be on hand, along with those of several area safety organizations.

Many of the programs available that night will be geared toward children and families in an effort to better educate the public on steps that can be taken to make their neighborhoods and homes safer from crime and criminals.

There is no charge for the program. Watch for additional information on Night Out on the City's TV Channel 24 on Cox Cable.

The Broken Arrow Police Department Honor Guard presents a 21-gun salute during the "Remembrance" ceremony at Central Fire Station Sept. 11. (See related story on Page 3).



City of Broken Arrow

City Hall(Phone) 251-5311
220 South First Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(www.city.broken-arrow.ok.us)

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Animal Control259-8311
Citizens Action Center258-3587
Fire Department (Main office)259-8360
Parks & Recreation/Comm. Center ..259-8380
Public Works (all offices)259-8373
Seniors Center (at Main Place)259-8377
Sewer & Water Emergencies
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.259-8373
after hours259-8400
Police Department259-8350
TDD259-8452
Traffic Fines/Municipal Court259-8424
Utility Payments259-8409

Police, Fire or Ambulance Emergencies . . . 911

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